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THE END OF INFLATION.

THE PRESIDENT'S VETO.

THE FINANCE BILL RETURNED TO THE SENATE. THE PRESIDENT UNABLE TO FIND ARGUMENTS TO JUSTIFY HIS ASSENT TO THE MEASURE—THE THEORY OF INFLATION A DEPARTURE FROM THE PRINCIPLES OF FINANCE, CONGRESSIONAL AND PRESIDENTIAL PROMISES, AND PARTY LEDGES—A RETURN TO SPECIE PAYMENTS ADVOCATED.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—The following is the President's message vetoing the Senate Finance bill:

To the Senate of the United States: Herewith I return Senate bill No. 617, entitled "An act to fix the amount of United States notes and the circulation of National banks, and for other purposes," without my approval. In doing so I must express my regret at not being able to give my assent to a measure which has received the sanction of a majority of the legislators chosen by the people to make laws for their guidance, and I have studiously sought to find sufficient arguments to justify such assent, but unsuccessfully. Practically, it is a question whether the measure under discussion would give an additional dollar to the irredeemable paper currency of the country or not, and whether, by requiring three-fourths of the reserves to be retained by the banks and prohibiting interest to be received on the balance, it might not prove a contraction. But the fact cannot be concealed that, theoretically, the bill increases the paper circulation \$100,000,000, less only of the amount of reserves retained from circulation by the provisions of the second section. The measure has been supported on the theory that it would give increased circulation. It is a fair inference, therefore, that if in practice the measure should fail to create the abundance of circulation expected of it, the friends of the measure, particularly those out of Congress, would clamor for such inflation as would give the expected relief. For theory, in my belief, is a departure from the true principles of finance, national interest, national obligations to creditors, Congressional promises, party pledges on the part of both political parties, and of the personal views and promises made by me, in every annual message sent to Congress, and in each inaugural address. In my annual message to Congress, in December, 1869, the following passages appear:

"Among the evils growing out of the Rebellion and not yet referred to, is that of an irredeemable currency. It is an evil which I hope will receive your most earnest attention. It is a duty, and one of the highest duties of the Government, to secure to the citizen a medium of exchange of fixed, unvarying value. This implies a return to a specie basis, and no substitute for it can be devised. It should be commenced now and reached at the earliest practicable moment consistent with a fair regard to the interest of the debtor class. Immediate resumption, if practicable, would not be desirable. It would compel the debtor class to pay beyond their contract, the premium on gold at the date of their purchase, and would bring bankruptcy and ruin to thousands. Fluctuations, however, in the paper value of the measure of all values—gold—is detrimental to the interest of trade. It makes the man of business an involuntary gambler, for in all sales where further payment is to be made both parties speculate as to what will be the value of the currency to be paid and received. I earnestly recommend to you, then, such legislation as will insure a gradual return to specie payments and put an immediate stop to fluctuations in the value of currency."

I still adhere to the views then expressed. As early as Dec. 4, 1869, the House of Representatives passed a resolution, by a vote of 144 Yeas to 6 Nays, concurring in the views of the Secretary of the Treasury in relation to the necessity of a contraction of the currency, with a view to an early resumption of specie payments as the business interests of the country will permit, and pledging cooperative action to this end as speedily as possible. The first act passed by the XLth Congress on the 18th day of March, 1870, was as follows:

An act to strengthen the public credit of the United States. Be it enacted, that in order to remove any doubt as to the purpose of the Government to discharge all its obligations to the public creditors, and to settle conflicting questions and interpretations of the law by virtue of which such obligations have been contracted, it is hereby provided and declared that the faith of the United States is solemnly pledged to the payment, in coin or its equivalent, of all the obligations of the United States not bearing interest, known as United States notes, and of all the interest-bearing obligations, except in cases where the law authorizing the issue of any such obligation has expressly provided that the same may be paid in lawful money or in other currency than gold and silver; but none of said interest-bearing obligations, not already due, shall be redeemed or paid before maturity unless at such time as the United States shall have converted into coin at the option of the holder, or unless at such time bonds of the United States bearing a lower rate of interest than bonds to be redeemed can be sold at par in coin. And the United States also solemnly pledges its faith to make provision at the earliest practicable period for the redemption of United States notes in coin.

This act still remains as a continuing pledge of the faith of the United States to make provision at the earliest practicable moment for the redemption of the United States notes in coin. A declaration contained in the act of June 30, 1864, created an obligation that the total amount of United States notes issued or to be issued should never exceed \$400,000,000. The amount in actual circulation was actually reduced to \$350,000,000, at which point Congress passed the act of Feb. 4, 1868, suspending the further reduction of the currency. The \$400,000,000 have been regarded as a reserve, to be used only in case of an emergency, such as has occurred on several occasions, and must occur hereafter from any cause revenues suddenly fall below expenditures; and such reserve is necessary, because the fractional currency, amounting to \$50,000,000, is redeemable in legal tender on call. It may be said that such a return of fractional currency for redemption is impossible; but, let steps be taken for a return to a specie basis, and it will be found that silver will take the place of fractional currency as rapidly as it can be supplied.

When the premium on gold reaches a sufficiently low point, with the amount of United States notes to be issued permanently within proper limits, and the Treasury so strengthened as to be able to redeem them in coin on demand, it will then be safe to inaugurate a system of free banking, with such provisions as to make compulsory redemption of circulation notes of banks in coin, or United States notes themselves, redeemable and made equivalent to coin, as a measure preparatory to free banking, or for placing the Government in a condition to redeem its notes in coin at the earliest practicable moment. The revenues of the country should be increased so as to pay the current expenses, provide for the sinking fund required by law, and also a surplus to be retained in the Treasury in gold. I am not a believer in any artificial method of making paper money equal to coin, when coin is not owned or held ready to redeem the promises to pay, for paper money is nothing more than promises to pay, and is valuable exactly in proportion to the amount of coin that it can be converted into. While coin is not used as a circulating medium, or the currency of the country is not convertible into it at par, it becomes an article of commerce as much as any other product. The surplus will seek a foreign market, as will any other surplus. The balance of trade has nothing to do with the question. The duties on imports being required in coin, create a limited demand for gold, and about enough to satisfy that demand remains in the country. To increase this supply I see no way open but by the Government hoarding, through the means above given, and possibly by requiring the National banks to aid. It is claimed by the advocates of the measure herewith returned that there is an unequal distribu-

tion of the banking capital of the country. I was disposed to give great weight to this view of the question at first, but on reflection it will be remembered that their still remains \$4,000,000 of authorized bank-note circulation assigned to States having less than their quota not yet taken. In addition to this, the States having less than their quota of bank circulation have the option of \$35,000,000 more, to be taken from those States having more than their proportion. When this is all taken up, or when specie payments are fully restored or are in rapid process of restoration, will be the time to consider the question of "more currency." U. S. GRANT.

Executive Mansion, April 22, 1874.

THE EFFECT IN WASHINGTON.

THE RECEIPT OF THE VETO IN THE SENATE—ANGER OF THE INFLATIONISTS—INTERPRETATION DENOUNCED BY THE PRESIDENT'S ACTION—DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT BY PROMINENT MEN—VARIOUS OPINIONS EXPRESSED—THE MOST IMPORTANT POLITICAL EVENT SINCE THE CLOSE OF THE WAR.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. WASHINGTON, April 22.—The impatience of public men in Washington touching the fate of the Senate Finance bill culminated yesterday when the Cabinet adjourned, after an unusually long session, and there came no certain intelligence from the White House in regard to it. To be sure there were rumors enough, and among them were those that the President had concluded to veto the bill. Several dispatches were received by members of the House from New-York reporting that such reports were current there, but almost everybody who is ordinarily informed on such subjects scouted the idea, and the rumor was generally dismissed as the probable invention of stock-jobbers. When the Senate met this morning every one was as much in the dark as ever, and it was not until about the time the Cabinet (which had been in extra session) adjourned, that the news reached the Capitol that the President had actually vetoed the bill, and that the message was on its way to the Capitol.

ANGER OF THE INFLATIONISTS.

Logan was the first to get the news, and one of the most intemperate in his denunciations of it. Before Gen. Babcock arrived, he had become very angry and was expressing his opinion of the President's course in the hearing of other Senators with more freedom than respect or politeness. Other prominent inflationists were less outspoken, but no less displeased. At the time Gen. Babcock arrived, Mr. Sausbury was reading a written speech on the Louisiana bill, and yielded the floor temporarily to allow the message to be read. The Senate at the time was not very full, but as the reading advanced one after another came in and took his seat, and a considerable audience of Representatives and others who enjoy the privileges of the floor, occupied the space behind the desks. The faces of the Senators who had taken prominent part in the debate were an interesting study while the message was being read. Mr. Ferry of Michigan showed very little change of countenance, but his face grew red and his brow slightly lowered. Mr. Morton scowled. Mr. Merrimon, who was the mover of the bill, looked very sorrowful and disappointed. Mr. Logan came in from the cloak-room and took his seat when the reading was nearly completed, and his face was almost black with apparent rage. He sat erect like a statue, with his hands in his pockets, and did not change his position for some time after Mr. Sausbury continued his speech. The "hard money men" showed their approval less plainly than the inflationists their anger and disappointment. Mr. Stewart, who came into the chamber from the District Inquiry, was beaming with pleasure, and Mr. Sargent's face had upon it a glow of satisfaction. The remainder of the resumptionists sat without apparent emotion. Mr. Blaine, who is rarely seen in the Senate, came in during the reading, and occupied a front seat on the Republican side.

DISCUSSION ON THE SUBJECT.

As soon as the reading of the message was completed, Messrs. Conkling and Ferry were both on their feet. The former was recognized, and moved that the message, with the bill, be laid upon the table, and the former printed, with a view to taking them up next week for final disposition. This motion was carried without opposition, and then the Senate broke up into groups for the discussion of the message. At first, Mr. Sausbury was unable to proceed on account of the confusion, but after much pounding by the President pro tem, Senators lowered their voices but talked none the less. These groups were constantly changing for half an hour, like the views in a kaleidoscope. At one time Mr. Carpenter was leaning upon Mr. Morton's desk, and the latter was reciting in an excited manner. Then Messrs. Edmunds, Boutwell, and Howe had their heads together, and Mr. Morton, who walks with great difficulty, joined them. Then Messrs. Blaine and Carpenter, Conkling and Frelinghuysen exchanged views.

VIEWS OF PROMINENT MEN.

In the lobbies about the Senate Chamber the discussions were very earnest, and opinions were expressed with unusual freedom. Mr. Cameron thought that the President had made a great mistake. His action would alienate the great States of the West, on which the Republican party has so long relied, so Mr. Cameron predicted, and would not save the Eastern States, such as Connecticut and New-Hampshire, where his veto would be approved. "I am not even sure about Pennsylvania," said the veteran politician; "it will be harder work to carry that State than before."

Mr. Carpenter said, soon after the reception of the message, that this would probably end the struggle in Congress, but that the fight would be transferred to the Congress districts, and that the people would return a Congress with a largely increased majority in favor of an increase of the currency.

One gentleman from Indiana, not a member of either house, but a prominent Republican politician, remarked, in his anger, that it served the party right. He was never in favor of taking up a Democrat; they were all alike; they would serve the party while they had use for it, and then they would cut its throat.

A member of the House from a Western State, who was in the Senate lobby shortly before the adjournment, said that the delegations from seven Western States were a unit in favor of repudiating the action of the President, and had even thought of calling a caucus to do it publicly.

THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENT SINCE THE WAR.

It was common to hear it said about the Capitol this afternoon that this veto message was the most important political event since the close of the war. The inflationists all assert that Grant has committed political suicide and stabbed the party to death, and the "hard money men" hold with equal emphasis that he has covered himself with glory and saved the party. Very much has been said this evening in regard to the particular consideration which caused the President to determine to veto the bill. One influence which is supposed to have been stronger than almost any other is that of the banks, the managers of which have represented to the President that the provisions of the bill relating to reserves, if put in operation, would be very disastrous. Some of them even predicted that the removal of a large part of the reserves from New-York would cause a financial crisis.

Logan, Oglesby, Carpenter, Pease, West, Pratt, Ferry of Michigan, Ingalls, and many others. A SURPRISE TO EVERYBODY—SECRETLY OBSERVED BY A CAUCUS OF INFLATIONISTS—THE VETO UNPOPULAR AS A PARTY MEASURE—THE MEETING DECIDES TO MAKE AN OPEN ISSUE WITH THE PRESIDENT.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

WASHINGTON, April 22.—A caucus of friends of the Senate bill met at the rooms of Gov. Morton to-night to talk over the veto. It remained in session till after midnight. There were present Senators Morton, Carpenter, Logan, West, Harvey, Ingalls, Pratt, Pease, Ferry of Michigan, and Oglesby. They were all unmoved by the veto, and agreed, when it came up for discussion, to maintain and defend their previous positions. It was the opinion of those present that a majority of the opponents of the bill in the Senate were far from pleased with the veto as a party measure. It was also held that the President was mistaken in estimating that the bill would cause inflation to the amount of \$100,000,000. They calculated that with \$320,000,000 already out, the bill only called for \$18,000,000 more greenbacks and \$40,000,000 bank currency, and that while the latter must go out slowly, there must also be considerable contraction. The temper of the meeting indicated a purpose to make a straight and open issue with the President on this matter, and debate the whole subject at length and with extreme pertinacity when it reached next week.

GARDING THE VETO PREVIOUS TO ITS DELIVERY.

(GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.) WASHINGTON, April 22.—The message of the President vetoing the Senate Currency bill was a surprise to almost everybody, as gentlemen in high official position, apart from the Cabinet, had uniformly expressed full belief that the bill would meet his approval. The Cabinet council to-day was confined altogether to a discussion of the bill, the President clearly stating the conclusions at which he had arrived, which, it is understood, were shared by the majority of the members. The utmost secrecy was observed by the officials at the Executive Mansion regarding the final action on the bill, the doors of the Secretary's and Clerk's offices being locked during the copying of the message. The message reached the Senate Chamber at 20 minutes past 2, and was immediately read in presence of a full attendance of Senators. The inflationists were visibly excited, and after the reading was completed, gathered in groups, earnestly discussing the question. When the news of the veto reached the House, groups were also gathered there; the friends of the bill in that branch, as those in the Senate, uniformly avowing their disappointment at the result. Some of the opponents of the bill said they would have been satisfied if the President had signed it.

EXCITEMENT IN THE HOUSE.

A PANIC AMONG THE MEMBERS—ALL LEGISLATION STOPPED FOR A TIME—THE PRESIDENT EULOGIZED BY MR. TREMAIN—THE "CHEAP-MONEY" MEN DISMAYED—THE INFLATION MOVEMENT BELIEVED TO BE DEAD.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

WASHINGTON, April 22.—The news of the veto created something like a panic in the House. It came in no official way, because the veto message went only to the Senate, but almost as soon as the contents of the big white envelope brought by Gen. Babcock were known in that body, word came over to the House, first as a rumor and then, a few minutes later, as a certainty. Nearly all semblance of order was lost for a time, the members leaving their seats and gathering in excited groups to discuss the startling intelligence. Nobody cared, for the moment, for the Appropriation bill, which before had been contested, paragraph by paragraph, with all sorts of trivial amendments offered as pegs on which to hang unbecomingly long speeches. The war of voices drowned the reading of the Clerk and the pounding of Mr. Woodford's gavel. Order was measurably restored at last, by the persistent efforts of the Chairman, backed by the entreaties of Gen. Garfield, that the members would not let the good news prevent them from going on with the work in hand. It was anything but good news for the inflationists, whose long faces and angry looks were curiously in contrast with the exultant countenances of the "hard money" men. Chairman Woodford led his horse to the water but could not make him drink; that is, he kept the Legislative work going, but could not enforce the attention of members to it. A third of them posted off to the Senate to hear the message read, and another third repaired to the cloak rooms to give vent to their feelings in praise or blame of the President's action.

ALLUSIONS TO THE SUBJECT IN THE DEBATE.

When debate was resumed upon the pending bill, by those who remained, the speakers could not stick to the text, but wandered off to the subject uppermost in their minds. On an amendment to increase the salary of the chief clerk in the Assay Office at New-York, three speeches were made which referred more or less directly to the veto. Mr. Parker said, now that the glimmer of hard money could be seen, there ought not to be any talk about increasing salaries, as the great chief who had proved himself equal to the emergency, and hoped that the inflationist majority would have the wisdom to follow him. It remained for Mr. Conger to give expression to the doleful feelings of the "cheap-money" party. In dismal tones he spoke of the prostration of the vital industries of the country and of the stagnation of business, and said he wished that the laboring men of the land might hear the House discussing propositions to increase salaries, while their last hope of gaining a livelihood was destroyed. He saw days of distress looming up; the people were groaning in darkness and want. In reply to a question by Mr. Mellish he showed that he did not understand the latter's position on the currency question, and when corrected he said it was not easy to know how men stood nowadays. He could not tell "what kind of influences were creeping around in this land to influence the conduct of the gentleman from New-York, or other men in this matter." The "other men" was obviously intended by Mr. Conger to include the author of the veto message. In reply, Mr. Garfield expressed the hope that such speeches, with all inflation schemes, would now subside, and that the House would get back to the solid ground of the work before it.

OPINIONS OF MEMBERS.

The prevalent opinion among members judging from the talk of the cloak-rooms and lobbies, was that the Senate would take up the House Free Banking bill and pass it, with some provision for future redemption of specie payments, and that the President would sign such a measure. Some thought the whole question dead, for this session at least, and a few conservatives declared their belief that President Grant had punctured the inflation movement, and that in its collapse it would be seen how hollow it was, and how little real strength it had among the people. As for the leading inflationists, some were morose, others demonstratively angry, and all were predicting the most terrible results to the Republican party in general and the President in particular. In no quarter, however, was there any hope expressed that the "cheap money" movement in Congress would survive the deadly thrust it has received from the White House. The only consolation its supporters found was in expressing the conviction that the people would sustain them, and rebuke the President at the Fall elections.

ENGLISH VIEWS ON AMERICAN INFLATION.

LONDON, Wednesday, April 22, 1874.

The London journals deprecate inflation of the United States currency, but they think it would be followed by a flow of bullion to this country.

THE STREET ON THE DOOM OF INFLATION.

CONFLICTING HUMORS—GENERAL BEWILDERMENT—RALLY AT THE CLOSE.

Only the readers of THE TRIBUNE were in any way prepared yesterday for the great event which was the universal topic of discussion in financial circles. THE TRIBUNE's editorial announcement that prominent inflationists in Wash-

WASHINGTON.

THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS ABROAD.

THE BILL OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE DISCUSSED IN THE HOUSE—JUDGE HOAR'S EXPLANATORY REMARKS—MR. COX ARGUES IN OPPOSITION TO THE MEASURE.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

WASHINGTON, April 22.—The important bill of the Foreign Affairs Committee to define the rights of citizens of the United States residing in foreign countries received an hour's preliminary discussion in the House to-day. The bill originated in the State Department, but has been very thoroughly considered by the Committee and changed in many particulars. Its primary object is to define the conditions under which the Government may be released from obligations to the native or naturalized citizen who acquires a domicile in a foreign country with intent to remain there. It meets the case of people who, by residence abroad, shrink all the duties of citizenship at home, and at the same time claim the protection of our Government to relieve them from the responsibilities and obligations imposed by the laws of the countries where they reside. There are thousands of such people, and they give our Ministers and Consuls infinite trouble. A large proportion of them are natives of foreign countries, who, after acquiring citizenship in this country, go back to their native land with the property they have accumulated to spend the remainder of their lives there, and who claim for themselves and their children immunity from military duty and other obligations, because of their naturalization in this country.

The bill provides, that citizens residing abroad continuously for two years shall not be regarded as subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, unless they file at the United States Legation, or a Consulate, in the country where they live, a written declaration of their intention to return, which declaration must give certain prescribed information about the birth-place, previous residence, &c., of the persons. These registers are to be sent to the State Department, and annually laid before Congress. Persons engaged in commercial pursuits are not to be regarded as domiciled abroad, however long they may remain, unless they do not intend to return. Children are to follow and have the domicile and citizenship of the father during minority. A naturalized citizen becoming domiciled in the country of his nativity is to forfeit his citizenship, unless otherwise regulated by treaty.

Judge Hoar, in explaining the bill, said that the purpose it had in view was to provide a simple and easy means of determining who are entitled to the protection of the United States. It recognized the American doctrine of the right of every human being to elect the nation to which he would belong, and also acknowledged the right of every American citizen to go where he pleased in pursuit of happiness. At the same time it provided a rule to ascertain what citizens had, by their conduct, voluntarily renounced their nationality.

Mr. Cox made a written speech against the bill, and argued that it would discourage emigration, by making American citizenship less valuable, and that it was objectionable by reason of its establishing a supervision over our citizens abroad. He was especially hostile to the portions of the measure applicable to naturalized citizens, and appeared to think that it was preferable that the Government should be put to any amount of trouble on account of such of these citizens as go back to their old homes to live, rather than to limit their privileges even to the very moderate extent proposed. The discussion will be resumed to-morrow.

THE DISTRICT INVESTIGATION.

THE CASE OF THE MEMORIALISTS NEARLY CLOSED—EFFORTS TO THROW THE BLAME FOR THE FRAUDS UPON THE LEGISLATURE.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

WASHINGTON, April 22.—The case of the District memorialists is rapidly drawing to a close, and the Committee of Inquiry will, within a day or two, allow the District Government to produce its rebutting testimony. No indication has been given as to the time that will be consumed by the defense, but it is very probable that it will not extend beyond a week or two. It must not be supposed that the District Government will have nothing to answer for but the accusations brought by the memorialists. Several members of the Committee have been studying the different branches of the subject and will call additional witnesses, both on charges already examined and on others not preferred by the memorialists. On the subject of false measurements, the Committee has taken but very little testimony. An engineer employed by the Board has been engaged for several weeks in re-measuring the work for which the United States has been required to pay, and his report, which it is expected will show the most gigantic frauds, has not yet been made. Col. Magruder, the Treasurer of the Board, produced to-day his bank and check books, and the Committee spent the larger part of the day in examining them, for the purpose of ascertaining whether certain King banks had been favored by the Board by the payment of certificates held by them at times when contractors were refused money. There was not time for a thorough examination of these books, but from that made it is evident that one or two banks who held the Board's paper, either as collateral or by purchase, got the lion's share of the money appropriated by Congress.

The Joint Committee took up for consideration to-day the bill introduced in the House yesterday, and referred to them, suspending the meeting of the District Legislature. Senator Stewart and Gov. Shepherd favored an immediate suspension of the meetings of this body, but the majority of the Committee saw that if this was done no taxes could be levied by the District authorities, and Congress would thus be forced to make an appropriation at once for the purpose of carrying on the machinery of the local Government. It was therefore determined to report the bill, with an amendment suspending its session after thirty days. The present law makes the session sixty days in length.

The apologetics for the District Rigs are now attempting to throw all the blame for the extravagance and rascality of the District Government upon the Legislature. It is true that there are grave doubts about the constitutionality of the act creating this body, and that corruption and irregularity of procedure it has been quailed only by some of the "carpet-bag" Legislatures of the Southern States. But, at the same time, it should be remembered that the members of the Upper House of this Legislature were all appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, and that no fact is more notorious in Washington than that the entire Legislature has been, since the present form of government was adopted, but clay in the hands of the Board of Public Works. A year ago, before the assembling of the Legislature, Mr. Shepherd, then executive officer of the Board of Public Works, in attempting to explain to a correspondent of THE TRIBUNE the sources of revenue from which the Board was to obtain funds to pay its debts, spoke as confidently of the passage of the act authorizing the issue of the special improvement certificates as though it was already a law. It is also in evidence before the Committee, that Wm. A. Cook, the legal representative of the District Government, "lived" at the Legislature, and that when there was doubt about the passage of the Sewer Bond bill, the whole District Government came to the Legislature to help it along. If contractors have bribed members of the Legislature, the Board of Public Works have controlled the body by means known only to themselves. It is not fair, therefore, for the Board of Public Works or Senators, by whose consent the

members of the Council held their seats, to attempt to shift the odium of misgovernment in the District upon the Legislature.

CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL.

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, April 22, 1874.

The National Academy of Science met to-day, Prof. Henry in the chair, when Dr. Brown-Séquard opened the session with a lecture, lasting an hour and a half, on "The Pretended Localization of the Mental and Sensual Faculties of the Brain." The Doctor argued against the probabilities of the claim made by Dr. Roberts of Paris, that certain portions of the brain control separately the different senses, and that portions of the brain may be removed without producing loss of speech. At 1 p. m. Prof. Henry retired to attend a meeting of the Lighthouse Board, and Prof. Walcott Gibbs of Yale College took the chair. Prof. Newcomb of the Naval Observatory, a member of the Commission on the Transit of Venus, followed, detailing the work already completed by the Commission, and the plans decided upon for the observations in December next. Eight parties will be sent from the United States, and arrangements have been made with the German, French, and English Governments to compare and exchange the results obtained by the parties sent from those countries. Three of the parties will be established in the Northern Hemisphere, and five in the Southern. Those in the Northern will be at Wladivostok, in Siberia, under Prof. Hall of the Navy at Nagasaki, Japan, under Prof. Davidson of the Coast Survey, and at Peking, China, under Prof. Watson of Ann Arbor, Mich. The parties established on the Southern Hemisphere will be conveyed to the U. S. ship-of-war Swatara, and will be distributed as follows: At the Crosetts Islands, in the Indian Ocean, under Capt. Raymond of the Army Engineer Corps; Kerguelan Islands, Southern Ocean, under Lieutenant-Commander Ryan, U. S. Navy; Hobart Town, Tasmania, under Prof. Harkness, U. S. Navy; New-Zealand, under Lieut. Peters, U. S. Navy, and at Chatham Islands, Indian Ocean, under Prof. Smith of the Coast Survey. The Swatara will be employed during the period of the observations in surveying the Kerguelan Islands, a group which is very little known. Major Powell, the Western explorer, followed briefly with a description of his discoveries while exploring the Colorado River, in Arizona, near the mouth of Virgin River, and at 8 o'clock the Academy adjourned till noon to-morrow, when Prof. Henry will resume the chair.

REPORT ON THE HISTORY AND CONDITION

OF SAMOA ISLANDS.

The President to-day transmitted to Congress the report of United States Special Commissioner Steinberger on the subject of the history and general condition of Samoa, or Navigator's Islands. He states that the foundation of the Government of Samoa was laid in August, 1873. The organization was by the action of the chiefs and rulers of Samoa or Taimua and Pali. All races and colors in the islands have united. Col. Steinberger, on paying an official visit to the chiefs, addressed them in encouraging terms, telling them he came with greetings and expressions of the friendship of the people of the United States and his great chief. The Commissioner brought away with him a brief letter from the Governor of Samoa, dated in October last, addressed to the chief who rules America, in which he says:

I am very much pleased with the reference to the union between our Governments. My desire is that good arise for this land. Now, this is my opinion, and my wish. Be pleased to appoint for my chief, Col. Steinberger. It is very proper for that chief to come here and make things straight in this land. This is my letter. May God grant you health and strength.

It appears from the documents that a large and influential majority of the high chiefs and rulers, together with foreign residents, petitioned the United States to extend their protection to the Navigator's Islands. Col. Steinberger, in October last, informed them that he would present the petition to the United States Government.

THE HOWARD COURT OF INQUIRY.

In the Howard Court of Inquiry to-day Gen. Sherman read the following letter from the President:

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, D. C., April 22, 1874.

GENERAL: When the Court of Inquiry, provided by joint resolution of Congress of 18th February last, and convened by Special Order No. 35 from the War Department, of which you are the President, report their opinion to me, I will be pleased to have stated fully the facts on which the opinion is based. Very truly yours, U. S. GRANT.

The court to-day continued the examination of John S. Woods, Chief Clerk of the Freedmen's Branch of the Adjutant General's Office, who has been on the stand for three days, in relation to the charges of alleged misapplication and irregularities in the management of the Freedmen's Bureau. Two more witnesses for the Government will be called, when the defense will open. The case is likely to occupy several weeks yet.

THE SHERIDAN-PINCHBACK CONTESTED CASE.

The House Committee on Elections, who have had the contested election case of Sheridan against Pinchback of Louisiana under consideration for some time past, have agreed by a majority vote to report to the House a resolution that the evidence before the Committee does not satisfy them that either claimant is entitled to the seat, and recommending that the persons contesting be allowed to serve a new notice of the contest and a new answer, and to take further testimony. The minority of the Committee, Messrs. Lamar, Spoor, and Crossland, all Democrats, will report a resolution in favor of seating Sheridan. There has been no testimony taken in this contest. Mr. Sheridan offered the volume of testimony taken by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections last session, in the contest between Sheridan and McMillan for a seat in the Senate. His testimony was not directed to the question as to who was elected Representative in Congress, and in the judgment of the Committee does not furnish sufficient proof that either claimant is entitled to the seat.

RESPECT FOR SENATOR SUMNER.

Among those Senators who have informed Mr. Boutwell of their intention to speak upon the resolutions of respect for the late Senator Sumner, to be moved by him in the Senate on Monday next, are Messrs. Sherman, Fenton, Morton, Morrill, of Vermont, Trumbull, Sargent, Wallcut, of New-York, Thurman, and McCree. There is doubt whether Mr. Conkling will speak or not. Mr. Boutwell's [by Regular Report of Congressional Proceedings See Second Page.]

TEMPERANCE.

THE OHIO WOMAN'S LEAGUE.

CINCINNATI, April 22.—The State Convention of the Women's Temperance League met to-day. Five hundred delegates were present, representing 125 towns and cities. Mrs. Manly of Akron was chosen President, and Mrs. V. C. Presidents. A memorial to the Constitutional Convention was adopted, asking that the new Constitution forbid the granting of licenses; require the Legislature to enact laws for compensation for injuries resulting from the sale of intoxicating liquor, and give municipal officers special legislative powers against the liquor traffic. After the close of the afternoon session, 200 women marched in procession to the Esplanade, and sang and prayed there, while a band of music played all the time in a saloon opposite to where they were praying.

A STRUGGLE IN THE PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

HARRISBURG, April 22.—The House of Representatives passed the first reading of the Brewster and Distillers' bill to-day after an all-day's fight. Fifty temperance women from Pittsburgh and a large number from this city were present to hear the debates.

GRANGE NEWS.

LEWISTON, Me., April 22.—The State Grange organized here last night by the choice of Nelson Harris of Lewiston as Master, and J. M. Jackson as Secretary. The installation of officers took place this morning, and the Grange adjourned.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 22.—The State Convention of Grangers is in session in this city. There are 300 delegates present. G. W. Colby is President of the Convention.

FOREIGN NEWS.

THE CARLIST WAR.

DECREE OF GEN. SABALLA AGAINST FURNISHING FOOD TO BESIEGED CITIES—A LARGE REPUBLICAN FORCE MARCHING UPON VALMASEDA.

MADRID, Wednesday, April 22, 1874.

The Carlist Gen. Saballa, commanding at Guipuzcoa, has issued a proclamation decreeing the punishment of death to all persons furnishing food to the cities of San Sebastian, Pampuna, and Irun. A dispatch from Pedro Anaitio says that an army of 5,000 Republican troops is marching on Valmaseda, a town 22 miles from Bilbao.

THE CUBAN INSURRECTION.

SAN MIGUEL DE NUEVITAS CAPTURED AND SUBSEQUENTLY ABANDONED BY THE INSURGENTS.

HAVANA, April 22.—The official journals say the Cuban Gen. Maximo Gomez attacked San Miguel de Nuevitas on the 12th of April, succeeded in entering the town and sacked two stores, but was driven out, leaving ten of his men dead in the streets. The Spaniards lost four killed and nine wounded.

POSTAGE BETWEEN FRANCE AND AMERICA.

FAVORABLE PROGRESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A TREATY.

PARIS, Wednesday, April 22, 1874.

It was reported yesterday that the Franco-American Postal Treaty had been ratified by the French Government. The report was premature. Negotiations are, however, making favorable progress.

The postal treaty now nearly concluded with France was initiated by the Duke Decazes, the French Foreign Minister, who regarded the matter as of political importance. At his instance a committee was appointed, which promptly reported in favor of accepting the terms proposed by Mr. Creswell last July, and submitted to the French Government by Minister Washburne. The text of the document was brought over by Minister Bartholdi, and is said to have been substantially accepted by Mr. Creswell.

THE LOSS OF THE EUROPE.

A TESTIMONIAL BY THE PASSENGERS OF THE EGYPT.

LONDON, Thursday, April 22—8:30 a. m.

A testimonial is published, signed by the saloon passengers of the National line steamship Egypt, commending the bravery of the captain and officers of the Egypt in rescuing the salvage crew of the Europe, and approving of the relinquishment of the attempt to tow the disabled steamship into port.

POLITICAL DISORDERS IN MANITOBA.

ATTACK ON EX-PRESIDENT BRUCE BY FRENCH HALF-BREDS.